(a) whether the Prime Minister has constituted any committee for the Welfare of Muslim minorities after the Sachar Committee submitted its recommendations;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, by when such committee would be formed to benefit Muslims in the country especially in Andhra Pradesh?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF MINORITY AFFAIRS (SHRI SALMAN KHURSHEED): (a) No, Sir. However, the Government has taken various decisions on the recommendations of Sachar Committee and follow up action on these decisions are monitored periodically. Besides, the Prime Minister's New 15 Point Programme for the Welfare of Minorities was announced in June, 2006. An important aim of the new programme is to ensure that the benefits of various government schemes for the underprivileged reach the disadvantaged sections of the minority communities, and it includes the Muslims. In order to ensure that the benefits of these schemes flow equitably to the minorities, the new programme envisages location of a certain proportion of development projects in minority concentration areas. It also provides that, wherever possible, 15% of targets and outlays under various schemes should be earmarked for minorities.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Accessibility to Report of NCRLM

3489. SHRI ALI ANWAR ANSARI: Will the Minister of MINORITY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that report of the National Commission for Religious and Linguistic Minorities (NCRLM) was made accessible to media persons even though this report is yet to be made public; and

(b) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF MINORITY AFFAIRS (SHRI SALMAN KHURSHEED): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Grant under Maulana Azad Foundation

3490. SHRI ALI ANWAR ANSARI: Will the Minister of MINORITY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the amount of grant given to the Minority Educational Institutions in Bihar under the Maulana Azad Foundation during the last three years; and

(b) the number of educational institutions benefited under the scheme all over the country during the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF MINORITY AFFAIRS (SHRI SALMAN KHURSHEED): (a) Maulana Azad Education Foundation sanctions grants-in-aid to Non Government Organizations (NGOs) for infrastructural development of educational institutions recognized by the State/Central Board, where the number of beneficiaries from educationally backward minority communities is more than 50% subject to other eligibility criteria.